



Communication Skills Assessments (CSA) and Free Language Assistance (NOFLA) Summary

For Deaf, Deafblind, or ASL/signed language consumers:

A Communication Skills Assessment (CSA) conducted by ADMH Office of Deaf Services staff is required for all consumers who are Deaf, Deafblind, or who have a hearing loss and self-identify as Deaf. The CSA must be completed upon a consumer initiating services at the mental health center and updated/reviewed as needed.

The Notification of Free Language Assistance form (NOFLA) is required to be completed by ADMH Office of Deaf Services staff and must be updated annually (or sooner if requested by the consumer).

Recommendations and accommodations provided by the CSA report and the NOFLA must be documented and incorporated by each service provider in the treatment plan, case notes, etc. every time the consumer receives services. This includes but is not limited to identifying treatment and supports that are needed to address barriers to achieving desired therapeutic goals.

For Hard of Hearing consumers:

Though not required, communication assessments can identify strengths and areas that can be addressed, especially when there is concern about effective communication happening. If the consumer or staff members elect to have a CSA conducted, it is available upon request to the ADMH Office of Deaf Services staff member providing services at the mental health center.

Even though a formal assessment is not required for this population, *treatment providers are required to identify treatment and supports that are needed to address barriers to achieving desired therapeutic goals. The identified treatment and supports must be document and incorporated by each service provider in the treatment plan, case notes, etc. every time the consumer receives services.*

Note: Please see the Alabama Department of Mental Health MHSAs Standards for specific regulations to the above-mentioned items.